

CLAIBORNE GUARDIAN.

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Publisher and Proprietor.
DRAYTON B. HAYES,
Editor.

HOMER, LA.,

Wednesday, June 25, 1879.

Marshall, Texas has had no rain since the 6th of May.

Kansas has 559 churches with nearly 150,000 members.

America publishes over 9,000 daily and weekly newspapers.

It is now stated that the convention will take a recess until fall.

Henry W. Blair was elected U. S. Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. Lafayette Dancy, formerly a resident of this parish, is dead.

In Graham county Texas the people had new flour as early as the 24th of May.

One hundred and four thousand head of cattle have been driven through Fort Worth this spring.

The people of Lincoln parish in mass meeting have adopted the majority report of the state debt committee.

A fire in Batrop week before last destroyed the storehouses of E. Neworth and S. Sugar, and a small building belonging to Mr. Joshua Miller.

The convention has adopted article 8 introduced by the committee on taxation that the state tax on property for all purposes shall not exceed 8 mills.

Misses Mamie and Maggie Murrell, Miss Lucy Hadley and Miss Theo. Hamilton, all of Minden, were in Homer last week attending the commencement exercises.

The drought still continues. In many portions of the parish good rains have fallen, but in and around Homer we have had no rain of any value for over six weeks.

Prince Louis Napoleon was killed on the first instant by an ambush of Zulus. The prince had only lately gone to Africa to join in the war with the English against the Zulus.

R. C. Crain, Esq., of the Shreveport Standard, is receiving many well deserved compliments for his address delivered at the commencement of the Masonic Female College at Marshall, Texas.

The editor of the Guardian delivers the Annual Address at Minden Female College to-day. His subject is, "Woman's Kingdom." He is hereby commended to the tender mercies of our good friends, Tompkins and Scandland.

We call attention to the notice in reference to the giving out of Public Schools to be found in another column. The parish is now divided into two school districts. The schools for the 1st district, embracing wards 1, 2, 3 and 8, will be given out on Saturday, the 5th of July; and those of the 2d district, embracing wards 4, 5, 6 and 7, will be given out on Monday, July 7th. All patrons desiring a public school in district 1 must place a written application, containing the name of teacher they wish and names of children they will send, in the hands of the Secretary, J. S. Young, by 10 o'clock, a. m., on the 5th of July; and all in district 2 must do the same by 10 o'clock, a. m., on July 7th. All teachers must be examined on or before those days, by W. J. Leslie, B. T. Ledbetter and Geo. Davis, and must have a certificate of competency from at least two of them before license to teach or employment can be given. All children coming across the line from adjoining parishes must be taught free of charge wherever the parishes from which they come will reciprocate in case children from this parish go across the line to their schools. The schools will be given out for two months only.

There are over six thousand children in the parish, and only four thousand dollars for them all; so that in case some neighborhoods fail to get a school they need not be surprised. And it is to be sincerely hoped that no person will place the name of any patron to an application unless he is authorized to do so; and that no children's names will be placed there unless the parties have the children and intend to send them. If any fraudulent names are found it will probably defeat the securing of a school in that neighborhood. Colored patrons are especially advised to select for teachers those who are competent to teach reading, writing and spelling, or they may miss getting a school altogether for this year. It will probably be necessary to refuse some applications owing to the want of sufficient funds, and therefore leading citizens from each ward ought to come in and be present to assist the Board in determining where the schools shall be located. The Board have much trouble and are greatly annoyed by the want of sufficient funds to give each neighborhood a school, and we think the citizens ought to be willing to share some of the trouble and responsibility.

Let us hope that when our State debt is lessened, and our taxes also, that we can afford to levy a larger school tax and establish a more satisfactory system of public schools.

Homer Masonic Female Institute.

As was mentioned in last week's paper the examination of the advanced classes of this Institute was continued and completed on Tuesday the 17th inst. The young ladies of the College were subjected to a rigid examination in which they irresistibly drew the audience to the firm belief that their minds had been well trained, and that they had a clear and lucid idea of the different sciences taught and demonstrated by their text books. We cannot fail to make special mention of some of the classes by which our attention was specially attracted. Among them was a class in trigonometry. Four young ladies who showed very clearly to all mathematical minds that they were conversant and familiar with all the trigonometrical functions. Mrs. Sligh, their teacher, is a student of Prof. J. W. Nicholson, the inventor of the "trigonometrical circle," and has been very efficient in teaching its practical and rapid use to these young ladies. The examination was thorough, the questions were promptly and correctly answered, the hardest and most difficult problems were selected by different spectators, all of which were satisfactorily demonstrated. The elucidation of the problem of the "three points" showed that these young ladies were not entirely ignorant of the difficult and tedious calculations connected with nautical surveys. The class who read so fluently in different portions of the sublime poems of Virgil proved to all who heard their examination by Mr. Sligh that these young ladies could easily find the amorous sweets long since written in the dead tongue of the Roman language. The last on exhibition was the senior class, and was examined in the immediate presence of a collection of clergymen on that branch of moral philosophy called "Evidences of Christianity," in which they repeated in substance page after page of the cogent reasoning of the celebrated author.

Wednesday the 19th at night, A. A. Wheeler, the musical instructor, gave a concert and exhibition. Here again, before a large and clamorous audience, the young ladies acquitted themselves well. And the manner in which they played those long, intricate, operatic pieces of music without a mistake, without a jar, showed without doubt that this department too, of the Institution was, and had been, under the direction of a skilled and scientific musician, and that those young ladies had not been unmindful of the opportunity and had made rapid progress in acquiring knowledge of this the most difficult and pleasant of all sciences.

Thursday was commencement day and the following programme was before the people:

Prayer—Rev. J. W. Medlock.
Organ Solo—A. A. Wheeler.

Essays:
Miss Bonnie McCranie—The Crown of Nature's Work Is Man.
Miss Dollie Barrow—Labor Conquers All Things.

Miss Kate Simmons—A Sunny Temper Gilds the Edge of Life's Darkest Cloud.
Solo and Quartet—Lily Lee—(Pratt)—Miss Lizzie Callison and others.

Essays:
Miss Mattie Atcock—
"There yet is hope, then never despair,
The goal we'll reach, the crown we'll wear."
Miss Dollie Cunningham—What Is Life?
Miss Mattie Richardson—To Return No More.

Organ Solo—A. A. Wheeler.
Baccalaureate Address, and Conferring Diplomas—By The President.

Song—Heart, whence thy joy and sorrow—(Gumbert.)
Annual Address—Rev. Jas. A. Parker.
Graduating Song—Graduating Class and others.

The essays were all, without an exception, pieces of perfect literature on their respective subjects, and were truly a feast to the literary mind. The reading of the last three were made the more interesting and affecting from the fact that those young ladies have completed their scholastic lives, and in the reading of those essays were bidding farewell to the teachers, to them made dear from kind instructions, farewell to their associates, warm friends from long intimacy, farewell to those halls of learning made sacred from the recollection of many a pleasant hour. May peace and happiness go with them to their respective homes, and may they fill whatever mission of life that befalls them with the same distinction of success that sparkle in their crowns as students.

The very name of Rev. J. A. Parker as orator of the day means success. And this address as others showed that he too had drunk deep at the fountain of knowledge, and was more than willing to bathe the thirsting minds of his panting audience with an exhilarating shower of his oratorical powers.

The graduating song was superb with Mr. Wheeler at the instrument, who in all probability played and sang for the last time in public for his friends in Homer, as he leaves in a few days for his native city, New York.

We can never think of the closing exercises of the two Colleges last week in Homer without pleasant and kind feelings in remembrance of the school fair given by the two schools in the chapel hall of the Male College. Many beautiful articles were on exhibition and sold at fabulous prices in school currency. The supper was the best in Homer for years; but if you were not a student it took a genuine dollar in U. S. legal tender to gain admittance for yourself and fair one. That night is long to be remembered, for the love-sick swain was there, and many a

soft saying was uttered and as many hearts made to flutter under the sharp point of Cupid's arrow and then lulled to sleep again in the arms of consoling love.

Thus for one week our town has been wrapped in pleasures of literary accomplishments, environed with the frivolities of time and fashion, and now she is entering and passing under the dull cloud of summer where she will make preparations for the anticipated business of the ensuing fall.

Commencement at Male College.

The exhibition which was mentioned in our last issue, at the Male College on the night of the 17th inst., was a decided success, and showed very conclusively that Mr. Smith, the president, is as efficient in selecting characters and dialogues and in arranging the stage and actors as he is untiring in his duties as a teacher. The audience was large and a strong majority attentive and patient, and nothing added so much to the entertainment as the selected music made by Messrs. Otts, Langford, Richardson and Coleman. We shall never forget the whistling of the "Mocking Bird," which was so different from the whistling sometimes heard in the back of the audience at an evening entertainment in Homer.

Wednesday the 19th, was commencement day. The young men of the college acquitted themselves very gracefully in their declamation. Their speeches were ably written and well delivered. Some of them exhibited a talent of oratorical power which, if well trained and cultivated, will cause the possessors to stand upon the plane of distinction in the great drama of life.

The annual address by R. R. Howell, Esq., was practical from the ideas presented, chaste from the purity of the language, impressive from the manner of the speaker, and made more so from the fact that Mr. Howell himself is an anti-bellum student of Homer College. And in his introduction referred to the past, and in connection therewith mentioned the names of many who together with himself drank at the pure fountain of knowledge within those spacious walls, and of whom to-day, some are dead and others occupy prominent positions both in the church and state, and are living monuments in evidence that this College has in days past been active in the great cause of education. And with President Smith at its head we believe that it is within the power of Homer and surrounding country to make this institution a College for the time and age in which we live. May it grow and feed the minds of our youths and in the harvest reap to the benefit of our country, and send out young men who will never bring reproach to her sacred name.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

Under this head we publish such articles as our patrons choose to write upon matters of public interest. It must be understood that we are in no way responsible for the views, criticisms, plans, &c., which appear in this column.—ED. GUARDIAN.

The Bondholder.

What a God-like specimen of the genus homo he is! What a nice sense of honor, money honor, pervades his soul—when in his favor! What a magnificent patriot and sacrificing lover of his fellow-man, he is!

Hear his cry. Lay on ye sons of toil—work, sweat, groan, eat dirt—die but fail not, come what may, to preserve the honor and credit of your State; to make good her bonds; to pay us, generous souls, the money we, in our self-sacrificing enterprise, made you responsible for. We will stand by and over you as long as there is a cent to be dug out of the earth, or you are able to drag after a plow. But on the contrary, if you do soil and fail us, cease to toil and sweat for us, then we be unto you, to your children, to our State. Her credit will be gone, your supplies will be cut off, the execution of Louisiana will be tarnished, and you will be branded infamous, the veriest wretches that ever broke from a bondholder's grasp.

Well, I think "we the people" of Louisiana can stand all this racket, and thank God, too, for it, because the burthen will not be half so heavy as that of toiling and slaving for the gambling speculators, the iron-clad bondholder, forever.

Now, these same bondholders pretend to think, and they say they are honest in it, that the honor and credit of the State of Louisiana, by consent and order of her people, are pledged to make good those bonds.

Yet all of them well know the people proper of Louisiana had nothing to do with the issuing of these multi-various bonds—had no word or thought, directly or indirectly, in the matter—were never consulted about it; but, on the other hand, they were ignored and treated with silent contempt in the whole transaction, as if they were nothing more than "dumb, driven cattle," to be used as their owners wished, in season and out of season, for the special benefit of the fortunate few whose purses the war left fat, or the pilfering hordes that came down upon the State, like ravenous wolves, after the war, with only the one aim—to rob and plunder, in the name or not of law, according to the situation of the case.

Some writer claims that the greater part of these bonds are *ante bellum* bonds. If so, even that does not alter the equity of the case. Before the war, Louisiana had a good and sufficient basis for a credit. A providential or diabolical dispensation in the shape of war, fire and devastation came down upon her, and at one swoop wiped out all this basis. Did Louisiana

save one-fourth of all her property? If so, and the *ante bellum* bondholder is honest and desires to deal justly and in accordance to the facts of the case, let him scale his bond to a par with the reduced volume of Louisiana property. If he will do this, the people of Louisiana will meet his claim promptly; if not, they will just tell him to go to the devil and help himself.

Again, it is urged that the action of courts and legislatures have recognized all the bonds now held against Louisiana as valid. That may be so as far as the courts are concerned; but courts of justice and law (so called) in these latter days, have to act on such statutory stuff as the pestiferous legislatures of the day may enact and promulgate as the law of the State, and we all know these legislatures, only in a very small way, represent and give force to the will of the people. Courts will act on any law that legislatures may enact, be the enactment founded or not in reason and right, and with due solemnity issue decrees and judgments based thereon, when, at the same time as an honest court, in its heart, it will damn the legislature that was so base or so weak as to enact such laws. Then the courts may, in sort, be excused, but never the foul legislature that did all these wicked deeds.

But the people of Louisiana now, for the first time in many weary years, have a chance to put in a word, and that word has no uncertain sound; hence, all the evil, scheming, plundering knaves and corporations, born in these late years of evil, are raising the howl, even down to Warmoth, that the people of Louisiana are going to prove themselves false, devoid of honor and justice, and by rejecting these illegal and fraudulent evidences of debt, (these bonds), do them a great wrong. And the holder of an *ante bellum* bond also cries out he will be wronged. Who is to blame? As he submitted to have his just bond mixed up with the unjust, so that you cannot tell "tother from which," he must, with the best grace he can get up, accept the fate of poor dog Tray, and abide the consequences of being caught in bad company. Also, by the calling in of these bad bonds of different orders and dates, and issuing others in their place, these workers of iniquity tried to hide their dirty tracks and prove that there are no bad bonds. Let the sin of the original bond follow their whitewashed offspring—for this is law.

New Orleans howls out, "We own \$6,000,000 of these bonds, and if you throw them out we are ruined," (that is, she will have to reduce her margin to play ball and bear), "our wives and children will have to wear calico and go to work." Who cares! misery loves company; besides, New Orleans should have kept her hands clean, and her honor clear of wicked ways. She should have remembered that "the wages of sin is death."

Now, if you bondholders have any just bonds, and can winnow them from the unjust, and will submit to an equitable adjustment, as per present values, the people, we again say, will not hesitate a moment to meet you.

You bondholders boast of the wonders done for the State! Show them. You can't do it.

You, New Orleans, sit near the mouth of the great river, and like a great spider's web with a monster therein, stand ever on the watch ready to seize and entangle anything that comes in reach of your meshes, suck out all the substance, and then to the country you cast out dead carcasses, cancerous bonds, to prove your thorough work and magnanimous zeal. But, New Orleans, if you cannot help the State free herself from her bondage, you may prepare to howl in earnest, for the spider will spread his web over your doors, the grass will grow in your streets, the ominous owl hoot in your palaces, and the proud empire of your trade will be driven away by means of your wicked conspiracy with false and fraudulent politicians, to find other and better channels of commerce for the labor and toil of the country.

The trick of the bondholder now, is to worry the convention out of patience, or hold it on until an epidemic scare can be safely had, so as to drive away the country delegates, and thereby save their ill-gotten gains. But let the convention stand firm, give the corrompts that only that is justly due them, and the people will be content. Heed not the cry of revolution, of communism, of repudiation; the people now demand even-handed justice, though the mourners go about the streets—though the heavens fall.

The rejection of all spurious claims will free the State, place her within the capacities of life and credit, and soon her word and bond will attain its par level in commercial circles.

For the brave stand of Judge Land, of Col. Kidd, and their unflinching conductors, the people will rejoice to heap up honors. For your outspoken article last week, Mr. Editor, the people of Claiborne thank you.

TOILER.

Senator Lamar has in plain and direct words given Conkling, of New York, the lie, and has in addition told him that it was language which no good man could deserve and no brave man wear. It was rumored that Conkling would attack Lamar on the streets but he seems to have thought better of it.

Rev. J. R. Graves will preach in Vienna on the 9th of July at 11 o'clock, at Arcadia Thursday 10th at 11 o'clock, and on Thursday the 17th he will begin a series of sermons at Arcadia to include the third Sabbath. We also learn that an endeavor will be made to have this distinguished Baptist divine preach at Homer.

Work of the Convention.

From our invaluable contemporary, the N. O. Democrat, we take the following summary of the work of the Constitutional Convention to date:

The following is a summary of the ordinances already passed by the convention and, also, of those on their third and last reading. Finally passed: Two articles of the constitution dividing the powers of government into three distinct departments—the executive, legislative and judiciary—confiding each to a separate magistracy and forbidding either to exercise powers belonging to the others. The convention has also passed three articles prescribing how the militia shall be organized and called into service, and has fixed the apportionment of the senatorial and representative districts of the State, which are to remain unchanged until after the enumeration of the population of the State in 1890.

On third reading: There is a very large amount of work advanced to this position on the calendar. It includes the report of the Committee on Limitations, so far as it has been adopted and amended; the provisions of the future constitution relating to the Executive and Legislative departments; that portion which relates to "Parochial Affairs and Boundaries" and to "Public Education," besides a special ordinance in regard to the New Basin Canal and Shell Road.

This summary shows that the convention has not been idle by any means; but, on the contrary, that it has done as much as it could do intelligently, considering the very grave, complicated and vexatious questions that it has had to consider, the laborious investigations it has been compelled to make in many instances in order to arrive at the data required for intelligent action, and the vast differences of opinion that have had to be reconciled.

In regard to that portion of the work which was already been consummated, we cannot say that there is any portion of it to which serious objection can be raised; but we should like to submit some criticisms upon certain provisions which are now standing upon their third and last reading.

For example, under the title of "Limitations of Powers of Government," we find that the General Assembly is forbidden to pass any local or special law "creating corporations, or amending, renewing, extending or explaining the charter thereof; provided, that this shall not apply to the corporation of the city of New Orleans." There are many reasons urged why this should not become a provision of the constitution. It does not abrogate existing charters granted by the State to incorporate towns, but merely serves to leave these charters ossified in their present shape, and to take away from the Legislature all power to amend them as exigency and the interests of those various communities may require. The convention evidently expects the next Legislature to pass a general law under which all municipal corporations shall be chartered without the exercise of legislative power. This plan does not appear to us to be practicable, and we are not aware of any instance where the limitation upon the legislative power in regard to the creation of corporations has been pushed to such an extreme. In the constitution of Pennsylvania, wherein this principle has been carried further than ever before, and which is supposed to embody the most advanced doctrine upon this subject, there is a special exception made in regard to municipal corporations, which are treated of under a separate and distinct title. This is the first attempt that has been made to organize municipal and political corporations under general law, and we do not believe the thing to be feasible in point of fact. The advantage as well as the practicability of establishing a general law under which all other corporations shall be chartered, is apparent. It makes the granting of all special immunities and privileges impossible, and precludes the interference of the Federal judiciary to enforce charter and contract rights as between the State and her domestic corporations. But in regard to political corporations the case is very different. These are subdivisions of the State, to which are entrusted very important elements of the sovereign authority, such as the powers of taxation and police, and these are prerogatives and privileges which should not be reposed anywhere except by special grant, and which the State ought to have the right to resume, restrict, alter, enlarge and amend, as circumstances require, and this right she could not assert under a general law. But, aside this consideration, we do not believe that a general law can be passed that will prove satisfactory. Particularly in fixing the boundaries of incorporated towns will such a law prove unsatisfactory. In case a community should desire to be incorporated, how are the limits of the corporation to be fixed under a gen-

eral statute? The general law may say that no charter shall be granted except in certain cases, where a clear majority of the people ask it after a popular vote has been taken. But how are you to define the limits, in a general law, within which parties can vote? Large land owners, and they are the persons most interested, almost invariably object to having their property included within corporate limits. But, under a general law, any aggregation of crossroads interests could establish a municipal surveillance, at general expense, over any extensive plantation property.

Again, in the legislative department we find that a residence of ten years in the State is required, and of two years in the district or parish, in order to qualify an individual to election to the General Assembly. A residence of ten years is also required to entitle one to election to the position of Governor. We do not appreciate the necessity of these requirements. Take, for example, the city of New Orleans, where a street is the dividing line between one representative district and another. If a man move across the street shall he be disqualified from representing during the period of two years any constituency whatever in the General Assembly? The residence of ten years in the State also appears to have been instigated by past experiences, which were phenomenal and are not likely to recur again. Carpet-baggery is one of those things which a people are not likely to be submitted to more than once in the course of their natural experience, and, for this reason, it appears to us to be superfluous to provide against it in the fundamental law, as our ambitious carpet-baggers have already acquired more than ten year's residence.

In minor particulars there are several objections to be urged. The rule in regard to the recording of the years and days at the demand of one-fifth of the members of the respective houses for example, we believe to be an injudicious innovation. Any one member ought to have the right to have recorded every vote cast in the General Assembly on any important question. We also hear objections to the constitutional requirements that all bills shall be read three times and reported on by a committee before they can become laws, thus placing the fate of legislation at the mercy of committees; these matters ought to be controlled by parliamentary rules to be established by the General Assembly, they are not of sufficient importance to be treated of in the constitution. The same observation applies to the clerical force of the General Assembly. We do not believe that these are matters worthy of incorporation in the fundamental unchangeable law of the State. Certainly our Legislatures can be trusted in such small insignificant matters.

Trustworthy advices from the City of Mexico, according to the New York Graphic, state that there is reason to believe the country is on the verge of serious trouble. The dissatisfaction with the present administration is increasing daily. In the capital, however, the opinion generally prevails that President Diaz is quite strong enough to crush the various factions arrayed against him. There is an openly expressed wish among many of the citizens that Diaz should not leave the Presidency at the end of his term of office, but should proclaim himself dictator.

The striking season has commenced to trouble our Northern fellow-citizens. Not less than \$40,000,000 of capital is now idle through the cessation of labor. In Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, thirty thousand men have struck, and the "lock out" is likely to be of long duration. Millions of dollars will be lost to the laborers in wages, and in the end they will go to work at the reduction. This is a rather expensive way of taking a summer vacation.

The honest clod hoppers of Louisiana can never be convinced that they are in honor bound to cash fraudulent bonds, from which they nor any other portion of the State, never received a farthing's benefit. They are too obtuse to comprehend such a fine sense of honor. A forger had as well try to convince one of them that he is in honor bound to pay a forged note, because the purchaser bought it in good faith.

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NEW SALOON.

THE PUBLIC AND MY FRIENDS ARE informed that I have fitted up an elegant BAR on the east corner of the Public Square—in the Massey building—where I will supply the wants of all who call on me, with the PUREST WINES and LIQUORS ever sold in Homer—FINE CIGARS at low prices—the best BEER made in the United States, and EVERYTHING usually kept in a well regulated Saloon. I shall be grateful for all patronage extended to me. MARTIN NALLE. April 16, 1879.

C. H. ARDIS, WITH NICKS & HOWELL, COTTON FACTORS & GROCERS, No. 10 Texas street, SHREVEPORT, LA. Warehouse Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Strand, corner of Commerce st. April 16, 1879. 25-4m:ml